

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1519
ANSWERED ON:29.10.2008
IRREGULARITIES IN REGIONAL PASSPORT OFFICES
Rajbhar Shri Chandra Dev Prasad

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of complaints have been received regarding irregularities in Regional Passport Offices;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

(a) & (b) A total of 135 complaints have been received on irregularities in Passport Offices during the period January 1, 2007 to September 30, 2008. These relate to issues such as corruption and procedural irregularities.

(c) Government has taken action, as necessary, against errant officials by sanctioning prosecution by the concerned investigating agencies and by taking appropriate departmental action. Government has also taken several corrective measures. These include periodic surprise inspections, including vigilance inspections, of Passport Offices, strengthening vigilance mechanisms in the Central Passport Organization and ensuring greater accountability in the working of Passport Offices.